

by two sightings at Lydford (SX4882) on the following day and one at Torrington Common (SS 4819) on 29th June. There were a few scattered records from all over the County in July (2nd at Aylesbeare Common SY0689, 10th at Coplestone SS7703, 11th at West Down SX4870 and 16th at Higher Metcombe SY0692).

A second, and much bigger, immigration occurred in August, with sightings almost daily from 5th August until 7th September. There were several sightings during the rest of September until the 27th, and then singletons, all on or close to the coast, on 1st, 5th 8th and 15th October. A singleton seen on 15th December at Dawlish Warren by J. Fortey remains an enigma.

Several var. *helice* were recorded; it was one out of four of my own observations, and four out of 55 of Maurice Edmond's. Maurice also witnessed ovipositing on young clover at Paignton on 7th September.

Reference: Bristow, C.R., Mitchell, S.H. and Bolton, D.E., 1993. *Devon Butterflies*. Tiverton: Devon Books.

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***Electrophaes corylata* Thunb. (Lep.: Geometridae), ratio of forms in north-west Kent**

I had for many years the general impression that in south-east England the banded form of this moth was the overwhelmingly prevalent one. However, this impression was not relevant to north-west Kent where it seems the moth has been exceedingly scarce during this century, until very recently. The species did not appear in my garden m.v. trap until 1983, its fifteenth year of operation. Another solitary specimen arrived in 1984, and numbers have increased, slowly at first, until in 1994 as many as ten would be noted in a single night. Chalmers-Hunt (*The Butterflies and Moths of Kent*, 3: 1981) corroborates this scarcity, but for Kent generally gives the proportions of the banded form and ab. *ruptata* Hbn. as equal, and more recently C. Plant (*The Larger Moths of the London Area*, 1993) suggests this is true of this region also, and which includes Dartford.

I have noted the numbers of these two forms for the past three years. In 1992 25% of 52 specimens were ab. *ruptata*, in 1993 23% of 35, and in 1994 26% of 84 individuals. An explanation of this discrepancy may be the situation of this part of Dartford in relation to incidence of atmospheric pollution. The banded form appears slightly darker, melanistic compared with ab. *ruptata*; the situation will be monitored in future years; the ratio may change.

A limited count made in late May 1988 on Granish Moor, near Aviemore, Inverness, showed the proportions roughly reversed, yet this would seem to be contrary to Barret's comment (*The Lepidoptera of the British Islands*, 1902) “. . . in hill districts from Cannock Chase northwards the ordinary form is almost entirely replaced by one in which . . . the central band is usually complete.” However, to the north of Cannock Chase lie the industrial

areas of Lancashire and Yorkshire noted for their production of melanic forms of many species. What has been the relative incidence of the two forms of *corylata* there? Has the complete banded form reached 75% in some of these industrial areas of the Midlands or North? Finally, in parts of the Highlands of Scotland a third form, I believe usually infrequently, appears; this is ab. *albocrenata* Curtis, paler still, having the central band virtually absent; does it ever occur more commonly than 1% or 2% of the total population?

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***Eucosma metzneriana* Treitsche (Lep.: Tortricidae) in north Essex**

It seems worth placing on record the capture of a male *Eucosma metzneriana* Tr., which came to a Robinson pattern m.v. light-trap at the Essex Wildlife Trust's Rushey Mead Nature Reserve, North Essex, at around 22.30 hours on 28th June 1994. This appears to be only the fourth British example of this attractive grey moth, and the first record of a male.

The species was added to the British list at the Gog Magog Hills, Cambridgeshire (a chalkland site some 34 kilometres north of Rushey Mead) on 22nd July 1977 by R.J. Revell, when a single female in good condition came to light (*Ent. Rec.* **89**: 329-330, Plate 1). A second (worn) female was recorded at Southsea, South Hampshire by John Langmaid on 21st June 1982 (*Ent. Rec.* **94**: 202) and a third (condition not recorded) at Rye Harbour, East Sussex, by Mark Parsons on 14th July 1989 (*Ent. Rec.* **101**: 254). The Rushey Mead example was in good condition, apart from the symmetrical absence of the tornal region of both forewings, suggesting that the insect had perhaps been pecked at by a bird or other predator.

The exact status of this species in Britain is unclear, and evidence may suggest that it occurs solely as an immigrant. The two south coast records perhaps fit this pattern quite well, though neither Gog Magog Hills nor the Rushey Mead Nature Reserve are areas noted for their immigration of Lepidoptera and there was certainly no migrant activity at all in the latter area around 28th June 1994 (three Robinson traps which run nightly at different nearby gardens within two kilometres failed to detect a single immigrant moth a fortnight either side of the capture date).

In continental Europe, the larva feeds from August to May in the tip of a shoot of an *Artemisia* plant, causing the shoot to abort and resulting in a swelling which is distinctive. The larva then leaves the swelling and pupates, spun-up in the lower part of the stem (Bradley *et al.*, 1979 *British Tortricoid Moths* **2**: 185-186. London: Ray Society) or in the larval habitation (Emmet, 1991 in *Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* **7**(2): 158-159. Colchester: Harley Books). Both *Artemisia absinthium* and *A. vulgare* are recorded. Because of a variety of circumstances, (the most notable being the presence on the trip of my own two larvae and *au pair*!), the trap at Rushey Mead was set during the particular night in question adjacent to the entrance